

Inner Arbor Trust Report

The Inner Arbor Trust completed its calendar year 2020 programming and has turned towards planning for “new normal” operations in 2021 and fulfilling its organizational mission and vision for Symphony Woods moving forward.

At the end of 2020, the Inner Arbor Trust worked closely with state and county health officials to create a new protocol for outdoor performances. After hosting six small, socially distanced performances, this protocol has been proved effective and a model for additional performances while Covid-19 restrictions continue.

Downtown Columbia Collaborative 2021 Planning

The Inner Arbor Trust and the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission invited the entire arts community and key stakeholders to share best practices, collaborate, and to plan 2021 together. The first meeting of this working group was held on December 3, 2020. Thirty-nine participants attended, including local artists, arts organizations, arts educators, and representatives from Downtown Columbia Partnership, Howard Community College, Rep Stage, Howard County Arts Council, Howard County Public School System, Howard County Recreation and Parks, Howard Hughes Corporation, Toby's Dinner Theater, Visit Howard County, the Howard County Executive's Office, and Columbia Association. Inner Arbor Trust and DCACC presented 2020 programming, current safety protocols, and opportunities to rent the Chrysalis and potentially additional spaces in Downtown Columbia in 2021. Columbia Festival of the Arts presented their *Columbia Arts Channel* which can be used to partner with the arts community to provide content virtually. The group brainstormed options for in person, hybrid, and virtual events. This working group will reconvene in early January, and the Inner Arbor Trust will continue to partner with other Downtown Columbia organizations (Columbia Association, DCACC, Downtown Columbia Partnership, Columbia Festival of the Arts) and the community as a whole in planning 2021.

Chrysalis and Symphony Woods Programming Planning 2021

Inner Arbor Trust assumes that social distancing restrictions will continue at least through July 2021. Accordingly, the Trust is planning socially distanced and hybrid events through midsummer. Plans are subject to change based on changing safety guidelines as well as funding.

Chrysalis Socially Distanced Performances

- Similar to the 6 small performances held at the Chrysalis in 2020
- Audience limited to 200 people
- Audience seating on the lawn, restricted to boxes, with masks
- Performer and staff safety enforced
- Ticketing to ensure contact tracing and for waivers
- Planning 2 performances with the **Columbia Orchestra**
- Maryland State Arts Council grant to support small performances, planning Spanish language performance

Hybrid/Virtual Performances

- Recording of performances to show virtually, potentially with limited onsite audiences
- Young Artists of America collaboration scheduled for February / March 2021
- Working with Columbia Festival of the Arts and DCACC to share expertise and create economies of scale for smaller arts groups and artists
- Virtual collaboration with local artist network (cross-promotion opportunity with Oakland Mills Community Association's "Jazz in the Mills" when the series reopens at The Other Barn)
- Creating performer safety protocol / best practices for filming

Chrysalis Rentals

- Rentals scheduled for dance schools and other arts education organizations for Spring student performances
- Pursuing rental opportunities for other performances

Food Truck Happy Hour Events

- Planning late Spring / Summer happy hour type events in Symphony Woods, on west side
- Timing dependant on safety requirements / protocols
- Exploring partnerships with local restaurants and neighbors
- Inner Arbor Trust planning to host small performances at same time as well as monetize beverage sales opportunities along with food trucks

Symphony Woods Concept Plan: A Community Vision

Inner Arbor Trust Board approved the updated concept plan and submitted it to CA for review and approval.